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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the indictment on September 20, 2005, of Cheihk Seck, age 37, of Richmond, Virginia; Elhadji A. Seck, age 28, of Richmond, Virginia; Elhadji M. Seck, age 21, of Petersburg, Virginia; and Randolph Jones, III, age 36, of Chesterfield, Virginia, on charges arising out of an alleged scheme to reproduce and distribute counterfeit and pirated movie DVDs and music CDs. A federal grand jury sitting in Richmond indicted Cheihk Seck on two counts of trafficking in counterfeit goods and one count of criminal infringement of a copyright; Elhadji A. Seck on one count trafficking in counterfeit goods and one count of trafficking in counterfeit labels; Elhadji M. Seck on three counts of trafficking in counterfeit goods, and one count of criminal infringement of a copyright; and Randolph Jones, III, on one count of trafficking in counterfeit goods. The trafficking in counterfeit goods charges carry maximum penalties of up to ten years imprisonment and \$2,000,000 in fines. The criminal infringement of copyright charges carry maximum penalties of up to five years imprisonment and \$250,000 in fines. The trafficking in counterfeit labels charges carry maximum penalties of up to five years imprisonment and \$250,000 in fines. The cases have been assigned to United States District Judge Henry E. Hudson.

According to documents filed with the Court and evidence at pre-trial hearings, the defendants were selling pirated DVD and CD disks out of their cars at flea markets and shopping mall parking lots. Titles included current and recent releases such as the Dukes of Hazzard, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, The Sponge Bob Square Pants Movie, and War of the Worlds. The investigation began in the Spring of 2005. It is alleged that law enforcement officials in Richmond, Petersburg, and Chesterfield, Virginia, seized counterfeit DVDs and CDs from each of the defendants. Special agents with the Richmond Federal Bureau of Investigation, working with investigators from the police departments for Richmond, Petersburg and Chesterfield County, as well as with piracy experts from the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), continued their investigation through the Summer.

Evidence at pre-trial hearings revealed that on August 26, 2005, federal and local law enforcement officers executed simultaneous search warrants at the residences of all four of the defendants and on several of their cars. Authorities reported seizing hundreds of copies of allegedly pirated music CDs and movie DVDs from these locations. They also seized hundreds of allegedly counterfeit labels from all the defendants' homes, and high-speed duplicators from

the homes of Cheihk Seck, Elihadji Seck, and Jones.

Mr. McNulty stated: "Copyright infringement and piracy are major problems and cause millions of dollars in lost revenue for the entertainment industry. Cases like this one are part of our cybercrime initiative and represent a significant priority in our office."

Also announcing the indictments are Donald Thompson, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Resident Office; Col. Carl Baker, Chief of Police, Chesterfield County; Col. Lee A. Crowell, Interim Chief of Police, Petersburg; and Col. Rodney Monroe, Chief of Police, Richmond.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brian R. Hood.

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